Claims

[c1]   A method for tracking checks though a mail system and a bank clearing system comprising:

obtaining a postal tracking identifier associated with a mail piece from a user;

receiving a check identifier associated with the mail piece;

receiving postal tracking data associated with the postal tracking identifier;

receiving check tracking data associated with the check identifier;

associating the postal tracking data with the check tracking data; and

sending the postal tracking data and the check tracking data to the user.

[c2]   The method of claim 1, wherein,

the postal tracking number is a PIC code.

[c3]   The method of claim 2, wherein,

the postal tracking number is received from a user.

[c4]   The method of claim 1, wherein,

the check identifier includes an ABA routing number, an

account number and a check number.

[c5] The method of claim 1, wherein,

the check identifier includes an identifier provided by a check tracking data center.

[c6] A method for providing check tracking information to a user comprising:

obtaining a postal tracking identifier associated with a mail piece that includes a check;

receiving check information identifying the check;

associating the postal tracking identifier with the check information;

receiving check processing information associated with second check information;

receiving mail piece tracking information associated with the postal tracking identifier; and

associating the mail piece tracking information with the check processing information.

[c7] The method of claim 6, further comprising,

authenticating the user; and

providing the mail piece tracking information and the check processing information to the user.

[c8] The method of claim 6, further comprising,

receiving the postal tracking identifier from a third party;

and

providing the mail piece tracking information and the check processing information to the third party.

[c9]   The method of claim 6, further comprising,

obtaining a third tracking number associated with the check;

receiving the third tracking number from a third party;

receiving a pin code associated with the third tracking number from the third party; and

providing the mail piece tracking information and the check processing information to the third party.

[c10]   The method of claim 6, wherein,

the check processing information includes an indication of whether the check has been paid.

[c11]   The method of claim 6, wherein,

the check processing information includes a processing history including time stamps and an indication of whether the check has been refused.

[c12]   The method of claim 6, wherein,

the postal tracking identifier is a PIC code.

[c13]   The method of claim 6, wherein,

the postal tracking number is received from a user.

[c14] The method of claim 6, further comprising requesting the mail piece tracking information from a postal system server.

[c15] The method of claim 6, further comprising requesting the check processing information from a bank system server.

[c16] A method for tracking checks though a mail system and a bank clearing system comprising:

obtaining a postal tracking identifier associated with a mail piece from a user;

receiving a check identifier associated with the mail piece;

receiving postal tracking data associated with the postal tracking identifier;

receiving check tracking data associated with the check identifier;

associating the postal tracking data with the check tracking data; and

sending the postal tracking data and the check tracking data to the user, wherein the postal tracking number is generated by a mailing machine.

[c17] The method of claim 16, further comprising:

transmitting the postal tracking code from the mailing machine to a central postal data center.

[c18]   The method of claim 17, further comprising:
        printing the postal tracking code on the mail piece using
        the mailing machine.

[c19]   The method of claim 17, wherein,
        the postal tracking data and the check tracking data is
        sent to the user via the mailing machine.